



***Learning from the past to protect the future.***

**Alabama Department of Public Health  
State Team Meeting Minutes  
Montgomery, Alabama  
Via Conference Call  
October 22, 2020**

State Team Members Present for Meeting via Conference Call:

State Team Members:

Sheriff Bobby Timmons (Alabama Sheriff's Association)  
David Rydzewski, M.D. (Alabama Department of Forensic Sciences)  
Michael Taylor, M. D. (Private Citizen, UAB Pediatrics)  
Jerry Williams (Alabama Coroner's Association)  
Scott Belton (Proxy for Director of Alabama Forensic Sciences)  
Ilecia Cobb, M. D. (Proxy for Commissioner of Alabama Department of Mental Health)  
Beverly Johnson, M.D. (Proxy for Commissioner of Alabama Department of Mental Health)  
Marsha Raulerson, M.D., FAAP (Alabama Academy of Pediatrics)  
Robert Hinds (Private Citizen Appointee)  
Shaundra Blakemore, M.D. (Alabama Medical Association)  
Lynn Bius (Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Center)

Staff :

Kimberly Gordon (Proxy Dr. Harris Alabama State Health Officer, ADPH)  
Gloria Davis (ADPH)  
Nicole P. Lovvorn (ADPH)  
Candace Abernathy (ADPH)

### Call to Order:

On October 22, 2020 at 1:00 PM via conference call hosted through ADPH/CDR Line, the Alabama Child Death Review System (ACDRS) State Team meeting was called to order by Mrs. Kimberly Gordon.

### Welcome of Members and Guests:

Mrs. Gordon welcomed State Team Members and Central Office staff.

### Approval of Minutes:

A quorum was not present. April 30, 2020 and July 23, 2020 minutes were unable to be approved at this time.

### Old Business:

Mrs. Gordon reviewed that the 2017-2018 annual report was finalized after being delayed by Covid-19 and members should have received an electronic copy via email. Mrs. Gordon reviewed that CDR completed two online trainings that both offered free CEUs. On August 28, 2020, members of the National Children's Advocacy Center presented a carseat safety training. On September 4, 2020, Dr. Brandi McCleskey (UAB) presented a training on Pediatric Deaths. CDR was able to provide a book, purchased through a SUDORS (State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System) grant, to all coroners in the state and physicians on the State Team. Mrs. Gordon extended a special thank-you to Chris Newlin with the Children's Advocacy Center and reminded the State Team that both trainings continue to be available on demand through the ADPH website.

### Case Status Updates:

Mrs. Gordon spoke with the team about the current case status numbers. CDR saw an increase from 50% reviews completed to 80% for 2018. Local CDR teams are currently at 57% for 2019 due to Covid-19, but CDR is optimistic that those numbers will continue to improve as CDR staff continue to follow up and work with local teams.

### Presentation on SUDORS:

Ms. Candance Abernathy presented information about her program with the State Team. Ms. Abernathy reviewed that SUDORS is a state-based surveillance program that tracks overdose rates by creating networks throughout Alabama to collect data to report to the CDC. The CDC has provided a three-year grant to fund SUDORS through ADPH to collect that data and to partner with Vital Statistics to create policies and identify risks. The SUDORS program promotes prescription monitoring of drugs and overdose.

### Local Team Reviews Amid Covid-19 Updates:

Mrs. Nicole Lovvorn reviewed that efforts to maintain contact with all 41 circuits remain ongoing and mostly successful. If not available by phone, most circuits are able to communicate through email. Mrs. Lovvorn advised that CDR has encouraged teams to continue to do reviews and highlighted the use of Zoom/similar sites, conference calls, and some teams are continuing to meet face to face. Nine circuits are already at 100% completion for 2019. Four more would be if not for pending death certificates. Mrs. Lovvorn reviewed that emails have gone out to all coroners encouraging them to submit their final death certificates so local teams can complete

their child death reviews. Due to Covid-19, the 2019 local CDRs review completion date has been extended to November 15, 2020.

New Business:

Mrs. Gordon reviewed that CDR is in process of working with Vital Statistics to obtain death certificates electronically. CDR currently obtains paper copies from Vital Statistics, sorts the paper copies, mails them to their respective circuits, and files them. Restrictions of being in the office, working from home, etc. with Covid-19 has allowed us to see the benefits of obtaining/maintaining those death certificates electronically. CDR is currently working on an IMOU (contract) with Vital Statistics and will update the team on the progress at the next meeting.

Mrs. Gordon welcomed new State Team Member, Dr. Shaundra Blakemore. She is with UAB Pediatric Emergency Medicine and has been appointment by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama. Mrs. Gordon also reviewed that Representative Paul Lee has taken Representative Weaver's position on the State Team and he is currently in the process of assigning a proxy to the State Team. The Alabama Association of Chiefs of Police is meeting next week to assign a representative as Chief Jerry Taylor is no longer available to serve. Mrs. Gordon reminded the team that CDR is still in search of a private citizen that must be a clergy member.

Mrs. Gordon asked for input from team members as to which platform they preferred to meet for the next State Team meeting, i.e. face to face, by phone, etc. Team members were encouraged to contact her with their input.

Open Discussion:

Sheriff Bobby Timmons suggested that the State Team adopt the buddy system for future meetings as we have had such a hard time having enough members present to meet a quorum. He suggested keeping it informal and hopes that it would make individual members more accountable.

Tentative Meeting Date:

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 21, 2021 at 1:00 PM.

Executive Session (if necessary):

An executive session was not called during this meeting.

Adjourn:

There being no further items on the agenda and no further discussion requested, without objection, the meeting was adjourned.